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NEW ISSUE

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, TASMANIA

(including persons who wanted to work
but who were not defined as unemployed)

SEPTEMBER 1984

INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Hobart (002) 209 450 (Mr Frank McCallum). For other inquiries, including copies of publications, telephone the Information Officer on Hobart (002) 209 409.

The Tasmanian Office of the Bureau is located on the 3rd Floor of the Commonwealth Government Centre, 188 Collins Street, Hobart (G.P.O. Box 66A, Hobart, 7001).

MAIN FEATURES

- Of all persons not in the labour force (excluding those institutionalised) in the 15-19 age group in September 1984, 95% of males and 90% of females had never had a job.
- 94% of all persons not in the labour force stated that they had not looked for work in the last 12 months.
- Of all persons not in the labour force: 19% had never had a job; 20% left their last job to retire; 27% left to get married or to have children; and 12% left because of ill health or injury.
- There were 19 400 (14%) persons not in the labour force but who were marginally attached to the labour force.
- Of all persons not in the labour force who stated that they wanted to work, 70% preferred part-time work; 82% of females preferred part-time work; 62% of married females preferred part-time work.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics in this publication relate to persons not in the labour force, including persons who wanted to work but who were not defined as unemployed. In recent years questions relating to persons not in the labour force have been asked in the March and September supplementary surveys. For September 1984 a set of State specific tables were produced from this survey and form the basis for this publication.

2. Persons not in the labour force are by definition those who do not meet the criteria that would enable them to be classified as being in the labour force. To be classified as being in the labour force, a person must be aged 15 years or over and be either *employed* or *unemployed*.

3. *Persons not in the labour force*, therefore, includes all persons aged 15 years and over who are not employed, who want work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; who do not want to work; or who through incapacity or infirmity can not work.

4. For the purposes of this survey, *marginal attachment* includes persons who were not actively looking for work but who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks and persons who were actively looking for work but were not available for work in the week prior to interview (the survey week).

5. The criteria determining those in the labour force are based on actual activity (i.e. working or looking for work) during the survey week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work, availability to start work and reasons for not actively looking, are more subjective and are not based on respondents' actual activity. Hence, the measurement of these criteria is affected by the respondents' own interpretation of the concepts used. Individual respondent's interpretation is affected by such factors as the respondent's work aspirations, as well as the respondent's family, economic and other commitments.

6. *Discouraged jobseekers* (a subcategory of those with marginal attachment) are those persons who were available to start work within four weeks but who were not actively looking for work for reasons which are assessed as indicating discouragement. (Refer to paragraph 15 for a fuller definition.)

7. The survey also provides details of those persons who stated that they wanted to work, but who are not defined as having marginal attachment to the labour force.

8. The various groups of persons either in the labour force or not in the labour force, including those marginally attached to the labour force, are shown schematically in the following diagram.

Definitions

9. *Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force* are those who were not in the labour force in the survey week and who:

- (a) wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks; or
- (b) were actively looking for work but were not available to start work within four weeks.

10. *Persons who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks* are those who:

- (a) in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had taken *active steps* to find work and who were available to start work within four weeks, even though they were unable to start in the survey week for reasons other than temporary illness or injury; or
- (b) were available to start work within four weeks and:
 - (i) although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week, had not taken *active steps* to find work; or
 - (ii) in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had not looked for work but in the survey answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question 'Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job?'.

11. *Persons who were actively looking for work but were not available to start work within four weeks* are those who in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had taken active steps to find work but were not available to start work in the survey week for reasons other than temporary illness or injury or were not available to start work within the four weeks following the interview.

12. *Active steps to find work* comprises writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service notice boards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

13. *Discouraged jobseekers* are those persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but whose main reason for not taking active steps to find work was that they believed they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: considered by employers to be too young or too old; difficulties with language or ethnic background; lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work; or no jobs at all.

14. A *job* is any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

15. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as of the survey week.

16. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Reliability of the estimates

17. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in Appendix A.
- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Standard errors of estimates are shown in Appendix A.

Related publications

18. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Labour Force Statistics, Tasmania (6201.6)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0), monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 including postage)

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons (excluding Persons who were Stood Down), Australia (6222.0), annual

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons (excluding Persons who were Stood Down), Tasmania (6222.6), annual

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families (6224.0), annual

Labour Force Experience during the Year Ending February 1985, Australia (6206.0)

Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia (including persons who wanted to work but who were not defined as unemployed) (6220.0), twice-yearly

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) (\$1.80, \$2.60 including postage).

EXPLANATORY NOTES — continued

Further information about publications produced by the ABS are listed in the **Catalogue of Publications** (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office, free of charge.

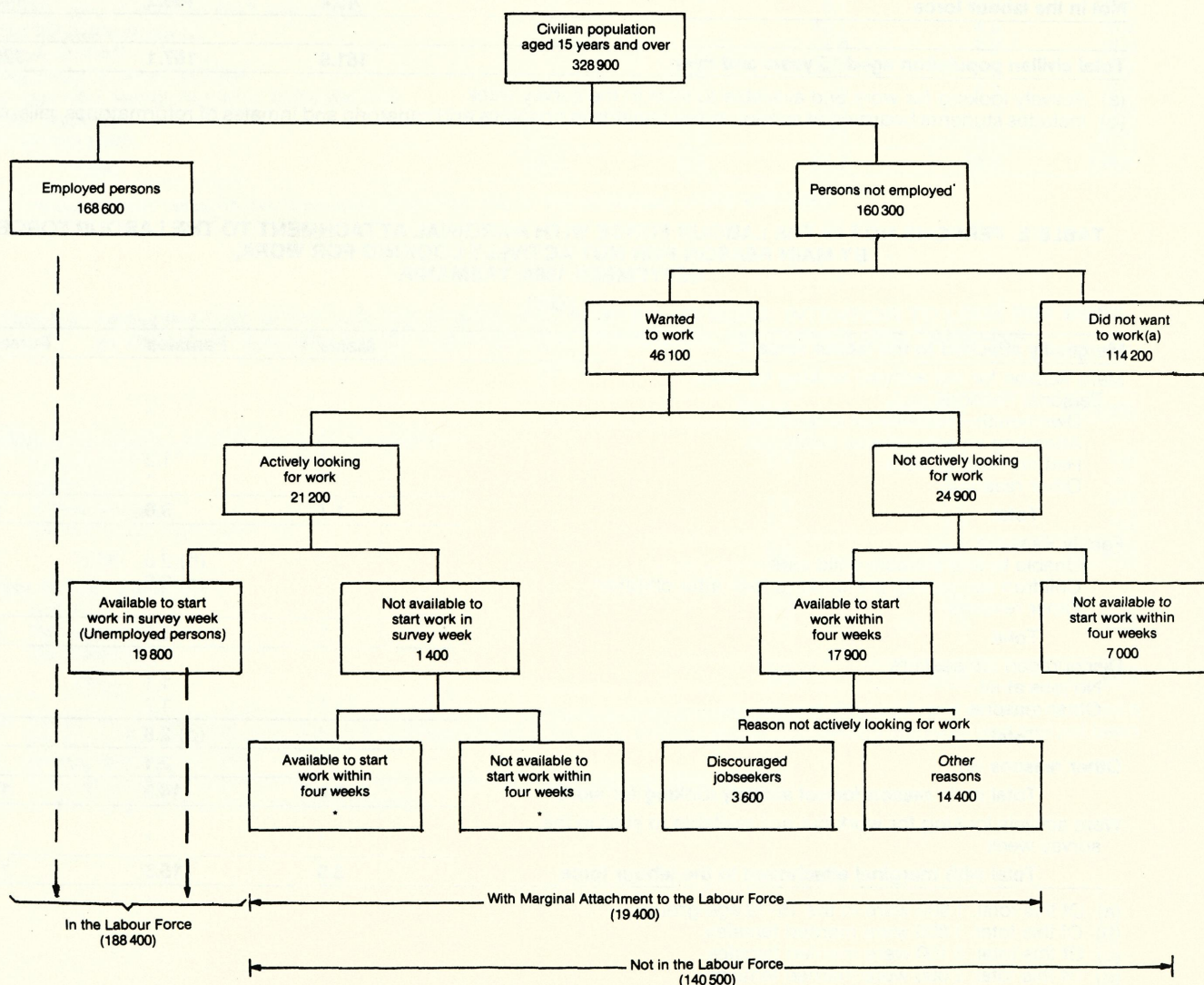
Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See Appendix A.
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available.

19. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

G.D. COCKING
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
and
Government Statistician of Tasmania

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE TO PERSONS IN OR NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, TASMANIA, SEPTEMBER 1984



**TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: LABOUR FORCE STATUS,
SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA**
(⁰⁰⁰)

Labour Force Status	Males	Females	Persons
Labour force			
Employed	108.4	60.2	168.6
Unemployed (a)	13.1	6.8	19.8
Total in labour force	121.5	66.9	188.4
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment			
Wanted to work and available to start within four weeks —	*	*	*
Were actively looking for work			
Were not actively looking for work —			
Discouraged job seekers	*	2.8	3.6
Not actively looking for other reasons	2.2	12.2	14.4
Were actively looking for work but not available to start within four weeks	*	*	*
Total persons not in the labour force but with marginal attachment	3.9	15.5	19.4
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment			
Wanted to work but not actively looking for work and not available to start within four weeks	1.7	5.3	7.0
Did not want to work	30.5	75.2	105.7
Permanently unable to work	2.7	1.6	4.3
Institutionalised (b)	1.7	2.5	4.2
Total persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment	36.5	84.6	121.2
Total persons not in the labour force			
Not in the labour force	40.4	100.2	140.6
Total civilian population aged 15 years and over	161.9	167.1	328.9

(a) Actively looking for work and available to start in the survey week.

(b) Includes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

**TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE
BY MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK,
SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA**
(⁰⁰⁰)

Marginally attached to the labour force —	Males	Females	Persons
Main Reason for not actively looking for work —			
Personal Reasons —			
Own health, disability or pregnancy	*	*	1.3
Attending an educational institution	*	*	(a) 1.7
Had no need to work	*	1.2	1.2
Other reasons	*	*	1.2
Total	1.7	3.6	5.3
Family Reasons —			
Unable to find suitable child care	*	(b) 2.0	2.1
Children too young, preferred to look after children	*	(c) 3.9	3.9
Other reasons	*	*	*
Total	*	6.5	6.5
Discouraged job seekers —			
No jobs at all	*	1.1	1.4
Other reasons	*	1.7	2.2
Total	*	(d) 2.8	3.6
Other reasons (e)			
	*	2.1	2.6
Total main reason for not actively looking for work	3.0	14.9	17.9
Were actively looking for work but not available to start in the survey week	*	*	1.4
Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	3.9	15.5	19.4

(a) Of this total, 1 500 were in the 15-19 age group.

(b) Of this total, 1 800 were married females.

(c) Of this total, 3 100 were married females.

(d) Of this total, 2 000 were married females.

(e) Includes had a job to go to; no jobs in suitable hours; not asked; etc.

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (EXCLUDING THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE INSTITUTIONALISED), BY REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB, SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA
(^{'000})

Reason for leaving last job	Age Group (years)				Total
	15-19	20-24	25-64	65 and over	
Males					
Retrenched, made redundant, lost job	*	*	1.4	*	1.8
Seasonal or temporary job or returned to study	*	*	*	*	1.5
Retired, did not want to work any longer	*	*	2.4	13.7	16.1
Own ill health or injury	*	*	6.2	3.4	9.7
Never had a job	7.2	*	*	*	8.2
Total (a)	7.6	1.7	11.7	17.7	38.7
Females					
Retrenched, made redundant, lost job	*	*	3.7	*	5.3
Seasonal or temporary job or returned to study	*	*	5.0	*	6.8
Retired, did not want to work any longer	*	*	5.7	5.5	11.4
Own ill health or injury	*	*	4.6	1.6	6.5
To get married	*	*	11.2	7.3	19.0
Pregnancy, to have children	*	2.9	14.8	..	18.2
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	2.8	1.9	4.9
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	*	*	3.3	1.1	4.9
Other reasons	*	*	2.7	*	3.2
Never had a job	7.8	*	4.1	4.8	17.4
Total	8.7	7.3	57.9	23.8	97.6
Persons					
Retrenched, made redundant, lost job	*	*	5.1	1.0	7.1
Seasonal or temporary job or returned to study	*	1.6	5.6	*	8.3
Retired, did not want to work any longer	*	*	8.1	19.2	27.5
Own ill health or injury	*	*	10.7	4.9	16.2
To get married	*	*	11.2	7.3	19.0
Pregnancy, to have children	*	2.9	14.8	..	18.2
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	3.5	1.3	5.5
Other reasons	*	*	3.2	*	3.8
Never had a job	15.1	1.3	4.4	4.8	25.6
Total	16.3	9.0	69.7	41.4	136.4

(a) Includes other reasons not separately specified due to the smallness of the estimates.

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK: INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA
(^{'000})

	Males	Females	Persons
Intention to look for work in the next 12 months —			
Would look	2.4	6.6	9.0
Might look	*	3.5	4.0
Would not look	1.6	7.3	8.9
Did not know, not asked (a)	1.1	3.3	4.5
Total	5.5	20.8	(b) 26.3
Type of work preferred —			
Full-time	3.8	3.3	7.1
Part-time	1.5	(c) 17.0	18.5
No preference	*	*	*
Total	5.5	20.8	(b) 26.3

(a) Not asked comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work and persons who had a job but, to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

(b) Includes an estimated 4 000 persons who answered 'might have wanted to work'.

(c) Of this total, 12 800 were married females.

TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (EXCLUDING THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE INSTITUTIONALISED) BY WHETHER HAD LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA
('000)

Whether had looked for work in the last 12 months	Males	Females	Persons
Had not looked	36.2	92.5	128.7
Had looked	2.5	5.1	7.6
Total	38.7	97.6	136.4

TABLE 6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (EXCLUDING THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE INSTITUTIONALISED) BY TIME SINCE LAST JOB, SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA
('000)

Time since last job	Males	Females	Persons
Had never worked	8.2	17.4	25.6
Had worked —			
Less than 1 year ago	3.6	8.4	12.0
1 and under 3 years ago	4.6	9.0	13.6
3 years and under 10 years ago	14.2	24.3	38.5
10 years or more	8.2	38.6	46.7
Total	38.7	97.6	136.4

TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (EXCLUDING THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE INSTITUTIONALISED) BY MAIN ACTIVITY, SEPTEMBER 1984: TASMANIA
('000)

Main activity	Males	Females	Persons
Housewife, home duties	1.1	80.4	81.5
Attending an educational institution	9.0	8.8	17.9
Retired, voluntarily inactive	21.7	3.6	25.3
Own illness, injury	2.9	1.6	4.5
Permanently unable to work	3.0	1.6	4.6
Worked in unpaid voluntary job	*	*	1.5
Other	*	*	1.1
Total	38.7	97.6	136.4

APPENDIX A: STANDARD ERROR

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The **sampling error** is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the **standard error**, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the **relative standard error**.

Standard Errors

Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate	Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate
1 000	250	4 500	480
1 300	280	5 000	500
1 500	300	6 000	530
1 800	330	10 000	640
2 000	340	20 000	810
2 500	380	50 000	1 100
3 000	410	100 000	1 300
3 500	430	200 000	1 500
4 000	460		

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